

From: Dan Martin
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 4:06pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

My name is Dan Martin, and I am a network administrator for a logistics company.

I am writing because I feel that the proposed settlement with Microsoft is a poor reprimand in an anti-trust hearing with so much on the line.

Microsoft has 30 BILLION dollars in the bank, gained mostly from sales of it's OS and Office suite applications.

Microsoft has used their 90% market share in the operating system market (started because of an anti-trust hearing on IBM....) and pushed out netscape from the market. Please look on Netcraft.com and see the usage statistics on netscape. It used to be the highest, now it is abysmal due to Microsoft bundling their browser with Windows.

Now Microsoft is planning on expanding into other realms. I feel that this is OK... a company should be able to forage out into other markets. However, with their photo-suite application (bundled with WinXP) Microsoft had a scuffle (and a proposed lawsuit, if I am not mistaken) with Kodak, because the photo software would launch automatically and not allow the user easy access to software manufactured by another vendor. This becomes even more important when it is found that photo software makes a large amount of money due to sending away for photo's made by Kodak or Fuji.

On the other hand, Microsoft paid millions for hotmail.com, for (what is seems) the sole purpose of having users give microsoft their personal information to be used as a "passport". With Microsoft's .NET initiative, their are trying to privitize much of the internet, and unfortunately, due to Microsoft's abysmal security policies, I cannot sign up to use .NET, Hailstorm, or even use Passport. Microsoft leverages their monopoly on the desktop even today. I use windows XP, and the Passport sign-up screen has come up over a dozen times, and I have repeatedly told the software that I do not wish to sign up, but it keeps on trying to get me to send my personal information to microsoft. I don't need Passport to use my computer, or the Internet, but Microsoft obviously wants me to think that I have to.

Microsoft even tried to give 1 billion dollars in "free" software to underprivledged schools. Unfortunately, "free" software to Microsoft is just that. Free. Microsoft pays for the development, the CD's cost less than a dollar to produce. There is a reason Microsoft has 30 Billion in the bank. Apple computer's mainstay is Educational sales, and that would cut a large chunk out of that. How about microsoft purchases 1 billion dollars of Apple computer's (with Mac OSX) and gives those to underfunded schools.

Bottom line, Microsoft is a very large company with billions of dollars in the bank. They pushed Netscape out of buisness, and it is fairly obvious that the anti-trust settlement proposed will do nothing to stop this company from using their monopoly on desktop computers to drive out competition. It has happened with netscape. Microsoft was going to do it with Kodak, but relented when they realized that they shouldn't push around a company with so much name recognition.

By the way, 30 Billion dollars cash is enough for hostile takeovers of 12 to 15 fortune 500 companies.

Thanks,

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